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Conversations on Harmony. By the Author of "Conversations on Botany." London: Longmans. 1855.

Our readers will thank us for directing their attention to a little volume, just published in London, which supplies what has long been a desideratum among *amateurs*—the elements of the science of harmony in a form intelligible to non-professional readers. It is entitled "Conversations on Harmony," by the author of "Conversations on Botany." As the name implies, it is written in the form of conversations between a mother and her child, and the principles are laid down with remarkable clearness and brevity, each precept being immediately followed by an example, thus showing at one glance the rule and its application. In short, to all lovers of music, who wish to get an insight into the arcanæ of the harmonic science, this little volume will prove of material assistance. The book, we should add, is extremely well got up, and the printing by Novello is a very favourable specimen of musical typography.—*Galignani.*

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

This Journal is published on the 1st of every month.

We would request those who send us country newspapers, wishing us to read particular paragraphs, to mark the passage, by cutting a slit in the paper near it.

The late hour at which Advertisements reach us, interferes much with their proper classification.

Colored Envelopes are sent to all Subscribers whose payment in advance is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscriber neglects to renew. We again remind those who are disappointed in getting back numbers, that only the music pages are stereotyped, and of the rest of the paper, only sufficient are printed to supply the current sale.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

We have frequently intimated our course of leaving anonymous correspondents unanswered, unless their communications are accompanied by real name and address.

J. M. S., St. Leonard's-on-Sea.—Dean Swift, on being asked the same question referred to us by you, replied by the following distich:—

*I find in my mind, to call it the wind;
But this I rescind, and call it the wind.*

A Violinist, Brosely.—Most of the solos performed by the great violinists in public remain in MS.; those that are printed can be obtained through your music seller.

Scotland.—It would be decidedly a breach of copyright, to publish any MS. poetry, with or without music, unless the author's consent be obtained.

J. E. H.—We are of opinion that the word my should be pronounced in singing as it would be in speaking. To use your definition, "it should rhyme with try." It would not be very prominent in "Uprouse ye then my merry, merry men," as the accent is on merry.

Organist, Manchester.—The exercises in Fetis' "Choir and Chorus Singing" are not printed singly; but the book complete is not too dear (1s. 6d.) to be used in schools.

Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

LIVERPOOL.—The Philharmonic Society commenced their season on the 1st October with Haydn's *Creation*, for which Madame Clara Novello and Mr. Sims Reeves were engaged.

NATIONAL OPERA COMPANY.—The recent introduction of the Non-liability Bill has suggested the formation of a company for the establishment of "National Opera" upon a securer and more eligible basis than has yet happened to it. The promoters, four gentlemen well known in musical circles, conceive the possibility of raising £10,000 in £10

shares, which it is presumed will enable the committee of management to work vigorously in the prosecution of the object, and fairly try a great national experiment. The company is headed by the Duke of Leinster, Mr. John Benj. Heath, and Mr. A. W. Arnold, as trustees; the executive department being Mr. Alfred Mellon, Mr. Hen. G. Blagrove, Mr. G. A. Macfarren, Mr. Palgrave Simpson, and Mr. A. B. Vyse. A provisional agreement has been entered into with the proprietor of the Lyceum Theatre, where the performances, if brought to bear, are to take place, the season to consist of 40 weeks.

KIDDERMINSTER MUSICAL FESTIVAL.—This Festival was given to commemorate the opening of the new Concert Hall, lately built; and in aid of the fund for the erection of the organ. The list of patrons was long and important. The principal singers were Madame Clara Novello, Madame Weiss, Miss Dolby, Herr Reichardt, and Mr. Weiss. M. Sainton was solo violinist; and Mr. Stimpson presided at the organ. The orchestra comprised several London instrumentalists. Conductor for the mornings, Mr. Done (of Worcester); and Conductor for the evenings, Mr. J. Jones. The *Times* says:—"The greatest effects were produced by Madame Clara Novello in 'With verdure clad,' and Herr Reichardt in 'In native worth.' The lady gave her air in her most delightful manner and with the utmost sweetness and purity of voice; and Herr Reichardt, for refinement of style and expressiveness, could hardly be surpassed. I never, indeed, heard Haydn's song, 'In native worth,' with more thorough satisfaction. Mr. Weiss's fine voice told advantageously in 'Now heaven in fullest glory shone.'" It is fully expected that the financial result of the Festival will leave a handsome sum towards the organ.

LIVERPOOL.—The festivities in connexion with the Duke of Cambridge's visit, Oct. 10, terminated with proper *éclat*, by a grand concert in St. George's Hall, for which Mr. T. W. Best, the talented organist, had engaged Madame Clara Novello, Miss Dolby, Herr Reichardt, and Mr. W. H. Weiss. The concert was attended by a vast audience, about 2,500 in number. The organ, now finished, presented a beautiful and chaste appearance, in admirable keeping with the prevailing style of ornamentation used in the hall. A chorus, selected from the practical members of the Philharmonic Society, occupied a temporarily-erected orchestra. The Duke made his appearance, wearing the ribbon and star of the garter, and attended by the Earl of Derby, Lord Stanley, Lord Chesterfield, Lord Colville, Lady Derby, Lady Emma Stanley, Mr. T. B. Horsfall, M.P., the Mayor, Mrs. Tobin, and several other fashionables. Immediately on his entrance, Mr. Best struck up *God save the Queen* on the organ, the anthem being sung, the solo by Madame Clara Novello, and the choruses by the choir. This was followed by the patriotic verses, by Henry Vincent, sung by the choir to *Partant pour la Syrie*; both the national airs being received with the heartiest enthusiasm. Madame Clara Novello gained the encore of the evening in an air from *Il Giuramento*, and the beautiful *morceau*, "Sovra il sen," from *La Sonnambula*; both of which were sung with that delightful brilliancy and clearness of tone, combined with tasteful expression, which is so agreeably characteristic of the vocalism of our fair countrywoman. The choir sang two madrigals and one of Mendelssohn's "Four-part songs," the madrigal by Ford, "Since first I saw your face," with its graceful and flowing melody, being most to the taste of the audience. With respect to Mr. T. W. Best, full justice should be done to the great and varied talents he displayed as an organist, accompanist, and conductor. He was never idle a single moment, and we can safely assert that he gave unqualified satisfaction to all present.—*From the Liverpool Times.*

HUDDERSFIELD.—A union, combining fourteen voices, under the guidance of Mr. Batty (the author of several popular glees), has been established here, as the nucleus for public concerts.

FOUNDLING HOSPITAL.—Invitations were sent out for the 8th of October, by Messrs. Bevington, to hear Mr. Willing play on the new organ they have just completed for the chapel of the Foundling Hospital. Mr. J. Hallett Sheppard displayed the powers of the same instrument on the 10th of October.

DUNFERMLINE.—The Harmonist Societies (senior and junior, in combination) have announced six monthly concerts, commencing on the 6th of October.

HUNSLET, near LEEDS.—The Choral Society, established in the present year, gave its first public concert on the 8th of October. Selections from Handel's *Messiah*, and Mozart's 12th Mass, were performed by the members, assisted by Mrs. Sunderland, and under the direction of Mr. Lancaster.

THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—The fountains have been brought to a very respectable state of efficiency, and, "weather permitting," daily display their glittering spray for the entertainment of the visitors. The tropical plants have also turned out a complete success—the Victoria Regias in particular being pronounced even finer than the famous Kew specimens. The gigantic palm is in full foliage and luxuriance, and the creeping plants completely drape the slender pillars with their graceful tendrils. The advancing season makes the tropical quarter of the building, in which all these vegetable wonders are to be seen, a favorite resort. Several small aviaries have been erected, plentifully stocked with love-birds, bower-birds, and other feathered inhabitants of sunny climes, who may be seen daily building their nests, undisturbed by the wondering groups by whom they are constantly surrounded. The nave has been cleared of all obstructions, the Paxton vista is complete, and the promenaders can now stroll between rows of orange and pomegranate trees throughout the whole length of the building, enjoying the strains of the military band.—*Examiner*.

NORWICH.—The Choral Society gave a grand concert on the 19th of October. The band and chorus consisting of 350 performers, assisted by Madame Clara Novello, Miss Milner, Mr. Cooper (violin), and Herr Hausmann (violoncello), from London. The concert was very brilliantly attended, and St. Andrew's Hall was filled with a delighted audience.

THE QUEEN AND THE PIANOFORTE-MAKER.—The history of the fortunes of the Erards is picturesquely connected with the beautiful Château de la Muette, at Passy, near Paris, a château which may be seen from the end of the lake recently made in the Bois de Boulogne. When Sébastien Erard was a young man, newly arrived in Paris, he waited one Sunday at the gate of the château to see the Queen Marie Antoinette, who resided in it, come out in her carriage. Sébastien, who was in the midst of the crowd when she passed, cried, "Vive la Reine!" with a powerful voice and an Alsatian accent. The queen remarked the fine young man, whom she mistook for one of her own countrymen. She spoke to him, and asked of what country he was. He replied, "I am French at heart by birth, as your majesty is by your marriage." The queen ordered the Swiss guards at the gate to allow him to walk over the garden and see the grounds. Sébastien went in, and spent the day in admiring the magnificent alleys and fairy-like walks of the park. A few years later, Sébastien Erard constructed a piano for Marie Antoinette, which combined several remarkable inventions to adapt the instrument to the limited resources of her voice. About half a century after the Sunday on which the Queen of France permitted the young clavichord-maker to walk over the gardens, the Château de la Muette was for sale, and in 1823, Sébastien Erard was the purchaser, and installed himself in it with his family. He took great pleasure in repeating the story of his first interview with Queen Marie Antoinette.—*Dickens' Household Words*.

CANTERBURY.—The Catch Club, established in 1779, re-commenced its meetings for the season, under the direction of Mr. Gough, on the 3rd of October, assisted by Mrs. Pillow and Mr. Genge, as soloists.

ATHERSTONE.—On 20th Oct. Mr. and Mrs. Paget gave a concert. They were assisted by Miss Rainforth, Mr. H. Nicholson (flute), and Mr. W. Brooks (pianoforte). The several artistes were very successful, and the concert went off with great *eclat*.

OSWESTRY.—The Second Choral Meeting of the Old Chapel Choir took place on 16th October, under the conductorship of Mr. J. Whitridge Davies. The attendance was very large, and the choir acquitted itself remarkably well. The march and chorus, "He comes ordained of yore," by Jackson, "Lift up your heads," and "O thou that tellest," of Handel, and the "Dona Nobis," from Mozart's 12th Mass, were executed in a manner that would have done credit to an older society. Miss Anne Eyeley presided at the pianoforte, and Mr. Charles Eyeley led the orchestra. The surplus proceeds were devoted to a fund for erecting an organ in the Old Chapel.

ST. MARTIN'S HALL.—Mr. Hullah is continuing the series of oratorio performances this year with increased spirit. On 24th Oct. Mendelssohn's oratorio of *St. Paul* was given in a very complete manner; Madame Clara Novello, Miss Palmer, Mr. Lockey, Mr. H. Buckland, and Mr. Winn, being the principal vocalists. Mr. Winn, who is already very favorably known to the audiences of Yorkshire and Lancashire, made a very successful debut before a London audience; and his reception fully warrants the decision he has lately made, to make the metropolis his residence and future field of action.

OLDHAM.—The Amateur Choral Society gave a concert, which was well filled with a highly respectable audience. There were upwards of seventy performers, assisted by Mrs. Winterbottom, Miss Hurst, Mr. Moss, and Mr. H. Brierley, the principal vocalists. Mr. T. Jackson leader, and Mr. J. Winterbottom the vocal conductor.

CARDIFF.—The second concert of the Classical and Harmonic Society took place on the 20th of September, when selections from *Actis and Galatea*, Romberg's *Harmony of the Spheres*, were performed, under the conduct of Mr. Righton. The next concert will take place about Christmas, and consists wholly of sacred music.

WORCESTER.—The Harmonic Society gave a grand concert on the 25th Oct., at which selections from Haydn's *Creation* and Mendelssohn's *Elijah* were performed. The performers were residents in Worcester, with the exception of Madame Clara Novello. Leader, Mr. D'Egville; organ, Mr. Haynes; conductor, Mr. Done.

SETTLE.—The Choral Society's second subscription concert took place on the 19th Oct.; for which Miss Birch, Miss Lascelles, Mr. Miranda, and Mr. Bodda, were engaged. The society has been making great efforts to improve the musical taste of the neighbourhood.

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